

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

GAC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 IO-12 NIC-01 RSR-01 VO-03 SCA-01

PPT-02 /117 W

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R 131559 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4492

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05484

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, ACOM, ASUP, CGEN, OGEN, PFOR, PBOR, GE, WB,

US, FR, UK, GW, NATO

SUBJECT: GDR RECOGNITION: TERMINOLOGY ON BERLIN IN

GDR DOCUMENTATION

REF: BONN 3062

1. SUMMARY: AT TRIPARTITE MEETING ON APRIL 12, THE UK REP INITIATED DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURES HE WAS PROPOSING TO LONDON TO REDUCE THE DANGER OF INTRODUCTION BY THE GDR OF OBJECTIONABLE TERMINOLOGY INTO DOCUMENTS ISSUED TO OFFICIALS OF THE THREE POWERS TRAVELING TO EAST BERLIN (SEE REFTEL), AND ASKED FOR ALLIED REACTIONS TO THE PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE UK REP SAID THE EMBASSY HAD CONCLUDED THAT THERE WERE TWO MAIN PROBLEMS INVOLVING STAMPS ISSUED BY GDR AUTHORITIES IN EAST BERLIN: (A) STAMPS PUT IN ALLIED PASSPORTS AT SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT (DESCRIBED REFTEL);
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(B) STAMPS ISSUED AT BERLIN INTERSECTOR CROSSING POINTS. THE BRITISH NOTED THAT CROSSING POINT STAMPS WOULD MUCH MORE SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE THE ALLIED POSITION IN BERLIN THAN THE AIRPORT STAMPS. THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ALLIED DISCLAIMERS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER THE DAMAGE WHICH WOULD BE DONE TO OUR LEGAL POSITION ON THE STATUS OF BERLIN IF ALLIED OFFICIALS ACCEPTED GDR STAMPS AT INTERSECTOR CROSSING POINTS.

3. THE FRENCH REP SAID FRENCH DIPLOMATS HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE OBJECTIONABLE AIRPORT STAMPS, AND THAT PARIS HAS INSTRUCTED THE FRENCH MISSION BERLIN TO TRY TO SORT OUT APPARENTLY INCONSISTENT GDR PRACTICE IN THIS REGARD. FRENCH AND BRITISH BOTH SAID THEY BELIEVED QUESTION OF GDR TERMINOLOGY IN ALLIED DOCUMENTATION HAD NOT BEEN BROACHED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GDR LEADING TO DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION.

4. THE UK REP SAID THAT IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN WOULD BE OPENING WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK THE BONN EMBASSY HAD PREPARED THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROCEDURES WHICH COULD BE FOLLOWED TO MINIMIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GDR OFFICIALS TO UTILIZE STAMPS OR OTHER DOCUMENTS CONTAINING OBJECTIONABLE LANGUAGE.

A. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, OFFICIAL TRAVELERS SHOULD OBTAIN THEIR VISAS FROM THE GDR EMBASSY IN THEIR CAPITAL BEFORE BEGINNING THEIR JOURNEY TO THE GDR. APPLICATION SHOULD BE MADE FOR A VISA VALID FOR ALL OF THE GDR AND NOT JUST FOR BERLIN. CROMARTIE NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO REJECT A VISA CONTAINING OBJECTIONABLE TERMINOLOGY BEFORE EMBARKING THAN IF IT WERE PRESENTED UPON ARRIVAL AT SCHOENEFELD.

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B. WHEN FIRST ARRIVING FOR POSTING, MEMBERS OF EAST BERLIN EMBASSIES SHOULD NOT TRAVEL VIA WEST BERLIN. THIS WOULD GET AROUND THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING TO ACCEPT AN EAST GERMAN STAMP AT AN INNER- BERLIN CROSSING POINT.

C. MEMBERS OF EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN SHOULD NOT TRAVEL TO WEST BERLIN UNTIL THEY HAVE RECEIVED THEIR EAST GERMAN DIPLOMATIC ID CARDS. AFTER THE CARDS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED, THEY SHOULD USE THEM AND NOT PASSPORTS TO TRAVEL TO WEST BERLIN.

D. AS A MATTER OF GENERAL PRACTICE, PASSPORTS SHOULD NOT BE USED AS IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS WHEN TRAVELING WITHIN THE GDR.

5. THE US REP THOUGHT SUCH PRACTICES WOULD BE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO HIS AUTHORITIES. HE RECALLED, HOWEVER, THE CONFIDENTIAL

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US VIEW THAT ONCE THE STEP OF ESTABLISHING AN EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN HAD BEEN TAKEN, THE THREE POWERS SHOULD NOT BE SO RESTRICTIVE ON POLITICAL ISSUES AS TO HAMPER THE OPERATIONS OF THE MISSION. ANOTHER DIFFICULTY WAS WHAT TO DO IF DESPITE THESE PRECAUTIONS THE EAST GERMANS DID PRESENT US WITH OBJECTIONABLE DOCUMENTATION. CRO-MARTIE SAID THE UK VIEW WAS THAT OUR REACTION WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO DEPEND ON THE POLITICAL CONTEXT AND

THE GENERAL STATE OF RELATIONS. HE AGREED THAT ALLIED EMBASSIES SHOULD REMAIN IN CONTACT ON SUCH PROBLEMS AND SHOULD NOT REACT TO EAST GERMAN PRACTICES WITHOUT PRIOR TRIPARTITE CONSULTATION.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE UK PROPOSALS ARE A SENSIBLE WAY OF DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH AS POINTED OUT IN REFTEL WE DO NOT SHARE THE UK VIEW ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT ARISE IN THIS AREA, WE BELIEVE THAT LIBERAL ADMINISTRATION OF GUIDELINES SUCH AS THOSE PROVIDED ABOVE WOULD ENABLE US TO AVOID UNNECESSARY FRICTION BOTH WITH THE GDR AND WITH THE OTHER ALLIES.

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LONDON
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NATO BRUSSELS
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